



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

April 8, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## PLASTIC BAG POLICY STATUS UPDATE

On February 6, 2008, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to report back within 60 days with a listing of stores in the unincorporated areas that will be subject to the County's plastic bag policy and the methodology that will be used to monitor, track, and evaluate the progress these stores are making in meeting policy goals. The CEO and DPW were further instructed to provide a list of grocery and retail stores not subject to the policy, relying on information from Public Health and business licenses. The Board also requested that the County Working Group evaluate other methods to reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in smaller stores located in the unincorporated areas of the County, minimally evaluating the possibility of instituting a standard prohibition on the use of plastic bags via the County's business licensing and conditional use permits.

### List of Affected Stores in the Unincorporated County Areas

Under the Program, and as defined under Assembly Bill (AB) 2449, "large supermarkets" include those having gross annual sales of \$2 million or more, and "retail stores" include those greater than 10,000 square feet with a licensed pharmacy. In order to prepare a comprehensive list of large supermarkets and retail stores located in the unincorporated County that fit the AB 2449 definition, Public Works has been compiling data from the Departments of Public Health, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, and Treasurer and Tax Collector (Business License and Collections Division). Due to the quantity of the data and the various departmental database formats, development of a comprehensive list is taking additional time to sort and verify. DPW anticipates compiling a preliminary list by May 2008. The list will be reconciled with data from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), which will be available in June 2008. Your Board will be provided with the final list in July 2008.

### **Proposed Disposal Rate Methodology**

Under the Program, the County Working Group must develop the disposal rate measurement methodology to evaluate the success of the County goals by July 1, 2008. As part of the first stakeholder meeting on March 19, 2008, County staff proposed a draft methodology (see attachment), which is based on the following three components: 1) reduction in consumption of plastic carryout bags, 2) total number of plastic carryout bags recycled at affected stores, and 3) total number of bags recycled via curbside recycling programs. As part of the monthly stakeholder meetings, the County Working Group will continue to incorporate feedback from stakeholders prior to finalizing the disposal rate methodology.

The large supermarkets and retail stores must submit consumption and recycling data to the CIWMB on a yearly basis. The first report for the period July 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008, will be submitted to the CIWMB by May 2008. Utilizing this reporting information will help the County to monitor, track, and evaluate disposal rate information for the unincorporated County areas.

### **List of Grocery and Retail Stores not Subject to County Policy**

Similar to the effort discussed above to identify large supermarkets and retail stores, DPW is also compiling data from various departmental sources to identify stores not subject to the County policy, and will report back to the Board with a comprehensive list in July 2008.

### **Methods to Reduce Carryout Bags in Stores not Subject to County Policy**

The County Working Group will investigate by July 1, 2008, how to incorporate convenience stores and other appropriate franchise outlets within the County unincorporated areas whose cumulative square footage exceeds 10,000 square feet. Additionally, based on the February 6, 2008 motion, the County Working Group will also develop methods for reducing plastic carryout bag use in smaller supermarkets/grocery and retail stores not covered under AB 2449.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact me, or your staff may contact Burt Kumagawa of this Office at (213) 893-9742, or via e-mail at [bkumagawa@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:bkumagawa@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:LS  
DSP:BK:ib

Attachment (1)

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures  
Director and Health Officer of Public Health  
Acting Director of Public Works  
Treasurer and Tax Collector

March 19, 2008

WORKING DRAFT

## PROPOSED DISPOSAL REDUCTION RATE METHODOLOGY

### Background

As required by Alternative 5, the County Working Group is required to “establish the disposal rate measurement methodology to evaluate the success of the County goals. At a minimum, the methodology will measure the reduction in consumption of plastic bags, increased at-store recycling of plastic bags, and plastic bags recovered at recycling facilities, on a semi-annual basis, while fully protecting confidential industry information. The County shall establish a framework by which the data submitted is confirmed to be accurate and verifiable on a regular basis.”

On February 6, 2008, the Board of Supervisors also adopted a motion requesting the CEO and DPW “to report back within 60 days with a listing of stores in the unincorporated areas that will be subject to the County's plastic bag policy, and the methodology that will be used to monitor, track and evaluate the progress these stores are making in meeting our policy's goals.”

The County Goals are to reduce the disposal rate of plastic bags by:

- a. A minimum of 30%, using FY 2007-08 as the baseline, by July 1, 2010.
- b. A minimum of 65%, using FY 2007-08 as the baseline, by July 1, 2013.

### Proposed Disposal Reduction Rate Methodology

In response to these requirements, staff has developed the following proposed disposal reduction rate methodology, which includes the following three components:

- 1) the reduction in consumption of plastic carryout bags,
- 2) the total number of bags recycled at-stores and
- 3) total number of bags recycled via curbside recycling programs.

Disposal Reduction Rate =

$$\frac{(\text{Base Year Consumption}^1 - \text{Reporting Year Consumption}^2)}{\text{Base Year Consumption}} +$$

$$\frac{\text{Plastic Bags Recycled At Stores During Reporting Year}}{\text{Base Year Consumption}} +$$

$$\frac{\text{Plastic Bags Recycled via Curbside Collection Programs During Reporting Year}}{\text{Base Year Consumption}}$$

<sup>1</sup> Base Year Consumption is the amount of plastic bags generated in fiscal year 2007-08, based on data reported to the California Integrated Waste Management Board as required by AB 2449.

<sup>2</sup> Reporting Year Consumption is the amount of plastic bags generated during a specified fiscal year, based on data reported to the California Integrated Waste Management Board as required by AB 2449.

**Example:**

*Base Year:* Large supermarkets and retail stores (Proposed Category 1) consumed 600 million plastic bags during the base year.

*Reporting Year:* Large supermarkets and retail stores (Proposed Category 1) consumed 400 million plastic bags, collected 100 million plastic bags at stores and recycled 1 million plastic bags via curbside collection program during the reporting year.

*Calculation:* 
$$= \frac{(600M - 400M)}{600M} + \frac{100M}{600M} + \frac{1M}{600M}$$

$$= \frac{301M}{600M}$$

$$= 0.5017 \times 100$$

$$= 50.2\%$$

**Action Items to be Considered by County Working Group and Stakeholders**

- Any suggested revisions to the methodology proposed above?
- What framework should be used to confirm the data submitted is accurate and verifiable on a regular basis? Options include:
  - a manifest system
  - tipping fees
  - third-party verification
  - direct County verification
  - store-by-store auditing
  - random inspection
  - mailing/e-submittal by stores